

Message Text

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41

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 NEA-10 M-03 A-01 SY-10 USSS-00 JUSE-00 DOTE-00

OMB-01 SCA-01 AID-20 EB-11 RSR-01 LS-01 IO-13 /166 W

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P 081800Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8385

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 4575

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, UN, BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN PROPOSAL ON TAKING OF HOSTAGES

REF: STATE 155538

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY APPROACHED FONOFF PER REFTEL AUGUST 8. GOB IS NOT PREPARING DRAFT CONVENTION ON HOSTAGES. CONSULTATIONS ON INITIATIVE TO BE BASED ON "EXPOSE DES MOTIFS" TRANSMITTED EARLIER AND EVENTUALLY ON DRAFT RESOLUTION TRANSMITTED BELOW. DAVIGNON TO DECIDE MORNING OF AUGUST 9 WHETHER CONSULTATIONS WITH NON-EC STATES SHOULD PROCEED. END SUMMARY.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH FONOFF DIRECTOR MID EAST AFFAIRS DEPASSE AUGUST 8, EMBOFF EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR BELGIAN DELAY IN DISCUSSING INITIATIVE ON HOSTAGES WITH NON-EC GOVERNMENTS. EMBOFF ALSO OBSERVED THAT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR GOB TO CONSULT WITH LIKE-MINDED STATES ON BASIS OF DRAFT LEGAL INSTRUMENT BEFORE DECIDING TO INTRODUCE AGENDA ITEM, IN ORDER BETTER TO DETERMINE SUPPORT FOR IDEA.

3. DEPASSE SAID THAT GOB DOES NOT HAVE DRAFT CONVENTION AND IS NOT PREPARING ONE. GOB HOPES ILC COULD PREPARE DRAFT. DIS-
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CUSSIONS WITH OTHER STATES TO BE BASED ON "EXPOSE DES MOTIFS"

TRANSMITTED IN BRUSSELS 4362. IN ADDITION, PROPOSED BELGIAN DRAFT RESOLUTION, ACCORDING TO INSTRUCTIONS SENT TO BELGIAN UN DELEGATION JULY 26, READS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE, ALARMEE PAR LA VAQUE DE VIOLENCE QUI DEFERLE SUR LE MONDE DEPUIS QUELQUES ANNEES; CONSCIENT DU FAIT QUE LA PRISE D'OTAGES EN CONSTITUE UN DES ASPECTS LES PLUS PREOCCUPANTS; INVITE LA COMMISSION DU DROIT INTERNATIONAL A INSCRIRE A L'ORDRE DU JOUR DE SA PROCHAINE SESSION UN POINT INTITULE "QUESTION DE LA PRISE D'OTAGES" ET LUI DEMANDE D'ETABLIR UN RAPPORT A CE SUJET A L'INTENTION DE LA 29EME SESSION DE L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE DES NATIONS UNIES. UNQUOTE.

4. DEPASSE SAID THAT HE WOULD MEET ON MORNING OF AUGUST 9 WITH DIRGEN POLITICAL AFFAIRS DAVIGNON, WHO WOULD REVIEW SITUATION AND DECIDE WHETHER DISCUSSIONS WITH NON-EC STATES SHOULD PROCEED. DEPASSE COMMENTED THAT US ARGUMENT RE DESIRABILITY OF DRAFT LANGUAGE FOR BASIS OF DISCUSSIONS WOULD NOT CARRY MUCH WEIGHT WITH DAVIGNON SINCE IT "SMACKS OF FILIBUSTERING" AND IN ANY CASE NO DRAFT AVAILABLE. EMBOFF OBSERVED USEFULNESS OF DRAFT LANGUAGE FOR DETERMINING WHETHER DISCUSSANTS WILLING TO GO BEYOND GENERAL IDEA STAGE TO SUPPORT ACTUAL LEGAL INSTRUMENT.

5. EMBOFF NOTED THAT US STILL HOPED THAT BELGIAN INITIATIVE ON HOSTAGES COULD BE POSTPONED, BUT THAT OF THREE ALTERNATIVES LISTED BY DEPASSE ON AUGUST 4 (BRUSSELS 4496), NUMBER TWO WOULD BE PREFERABLE. DEPASSE AGREED WITH EMBOFF'S OBSERVATION THAT IF GOB DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH INSCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM THAT AUGUST 18 LAJLSEGY#WOULD PASS WITHOUT NEGATING GOB ABILITY TO INSERT ITEM LATER (PER USUN 2794).

6. DEPASSE AND EMBOFF ALSO DISCUSSED PROS AND CONS OF CONSIDERING BELGIAN INITIATIVE UNDER ITEM ON ILC REPORT (USUN 2794.) ANY ADDITIONAL VIEWS DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE ON THIS APPROACH BEYOND THOSE EXPRESSED IN USUN 2794 WOULD BE HELPFUL IN EVENT GOB BEGINS TO LEAN TOWARD IT. BOOCHEVER

NOTE BY OC/T: PARA 5 (#) AS RECEIVED. WILL SERVICE UPON REQUEST.
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